Identification of Foreign Nationals in Assam

910. SHRI JAGMOHAN: WiU the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of the suspected eight million foreign nationals in Assam, only about 18,000 have been detected4dentified so far and only about a few hundreds expelled;

(b) what are the reasons for the extremely slow progress of the implementation of IMDA, 1983;

(c) whether the ISI is exploiting the current unsatisfactory conditions to make deeper inroads into Assam and other States; and

(d) what measures are being taken to speed up the work of detection' identificatiorvexpulsion and eliminate/ reduce threats to the internal security of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SYED SIBTEY RAZI): (a) and (b) According to available information, as of June, 1995, enquiries were initiated against 2,89,767 persons under illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act, 1983. Of these, while enquiries were completed in respect of 2,88,628 cases, 2,86,221 cases were referred to the screening committees and 25,915 to the Tribunals. The Tribunals disposed of 13,450 cases declaring 9,170 as illegal migrants. The slow progress in the implementation of the IMDT Act is on account of a mixture of factors which include the processes involved, ethnic, cultural and linguistic affinities in border areas making it difficult to detect foreigners, suspects changing their place of residence, difficulty in getting witnesses and evidence, etc.

(c) There are reports of ISI of Pakistan attempting to foment trouble of different kinds in the North East including giving aid and assistance to illegal and anti-national elements of the North East.

(b) Steps taken to prevent infiltration include erection of barbed wire fence along the border, construction of border roads, increase in patrolling, strengthening of border policing and stepped-up surveillance in vulnerable pockets.

Oman-India gas Pipeline

911. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indian expert team visited Houston to study the technical feasibility of the proposed 1400 km long Oman-India gas pipeline along the direct sea route;

(b) if so, whether feasibility test for phase-I has been completed to carry the gas through 24 inch sub-sea parallel pipelines and what is its present position both by way of feasibility financial aspects and implementation;

(c) by when the work on phase-I is likely to start;

(d) whether the team has been ensured by the Oman side about the regular supply of quantity of gas required by India for both the phases and they are satisfied with it; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) An Expert Committee has been constituted to monitor the progress of the feasibility study for the Oman-India gas pipeline project. The Committee visited Houston recently in this regard.

(b) to (e) The Oman Oil Company has taken up the feasibility study for the above project. The feasibility study will include the establishment of adequate gas reserves in Oman and the resolution of technological challenges connected with the submarine pipeline. Further work on the project will be taken up only after the